

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 16075 301727Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022962 301729Z /43
O 301615Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 5400

S E C R E T ROME 16075

EXDIS

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR ROBERT HUNTER AND DENIS CLIFT

EUR/WE FOR BROD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS:PGOV,VT,US
SUBJECT: THE NEW POPE AND US-VATICAN RELATIONS:
BRIEFING PAPER FOR VICE PRESIDENT

FROM THE VATICAN OFFICE

1. FROM OUR PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE NEW POPE AND FROM AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPRESSIONS OF OTHERS, WE EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE VATICAN. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY THE NEW POPE'S DECISION TO RECONFIRM IN THEIR POSITIONS THREE TOP FOREIGN POLICY ADVISERS--VILLOT,CAPRIO AND CASAROLI--WITH WHOM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL ENVOY HAS MAINTAINED VERY CLOSE AND FRUITFUL LIAISON ON THE FULL RANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

2. IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC POLICIES, THE INITIAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE NEW POPE WILL FOLLOW THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY DIRECTIONS SET BY POPE PAUL VI WHICH ON SUCH ISSUES AS MIDDLE EAST PEACE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF NARCOTICS AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 16075 301727Z

DRUG USE DISARMEMENT , HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEES, HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CONGRUENT/WITH EVEN SUPPORTIVE OF US POSITIONS. WE CAN CITE IN PARTICULAR THE FOLLOWING RECENT EXAMPLES WHERE OUR CONSULTATIONS OR DURING PAUL'S PONTIFICATE REPRESENTATIONS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN:
--PREVENTING A PAPAL DENUNCIATION OF THE N-BOMB, (A DENUNCIATION WHICH WAS ARDENTLY DESIRED BY THE USSR);

--OBTAINING A HELPFUL VATICAN POSITION ON THE
PRESIDENTS DECISION TO RETURN THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN'S
TO HUNGARY THEREBY REDUCING US DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO DECISION;
--ASSURING POPE'S EARLY PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT AND
SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S JERUSALEM PEACE
INITIATIVE;
--OBTAINING A MORE FORTHRIGHT VATICAN POSITION AT
THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI
FINAL ACT;
--ENLISTING VATICAN WORLDWIDE ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT
OF OUR EFFORTS TO RESETTLE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES
--OBTAINING VATICAN SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTROL
OF NARCOTICS AND
--ENLISTING VATICAN EFFORTS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF
THE INTERGRITY OF LEBANON AND FOR RECONCILIATION AMONG
ITS RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES.

4. WE SEE NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT POPE JOHN PAUL I
ON SUCH ISSUES AS THOSE CITED ABOVE WOULD HAVE DIVERGENT VIEWS.
IT IS OBVIOUS, HOWEVER THAT WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
EARLY OPPORTUNITIES, SUCH AS THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE NEW POPE THE BASIC
THRUST OF US POLICY ON SUCH SUBJECTS : EAST-WEST DETENTE;
DISARMAMENT (SALT AND MBFR), EUROCOMMUNISM,
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, (INCLUDING REASSURANCE
THAT AT THE PROPER TIME, THE VATICAN WOULD BE CONSULTED ON THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 16075 301727Z

JERUSALEM ISSUE), AND LEBANON RECONCILIATION EFFORTS.

5. WE EXPECT ON THE BASIS OF HIS INITIAL STATEMENTS AS POPE
(AND STATEMENTS OF THE RECORD) THAT HE WILL CONTINUE VATICAN
POLICIES ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS AGAINST RACISM, DIALOGUE
WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS AND WITH OTHER RELIGIONS (INCLUDING THE
MOSLEMS AND JEWISH DIALOGUES) AND WITH NON-BELIEVERS (INCLUDING
THE VATICAN'S OSTPOLITIK WHICH SEEKS TO ESTABLISH MODUS VIVENDI
WITH THE COMMUNIST REGIMES OF EASTERN EUROPE). WE ALSO EXPECT
HIM TO CONTINUE VATICAN POLICY OF SKEPTICISM ON EUROCOMMUNISM
AND OF OPPOSITION TO THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE IN ITALY.

6. WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOWEVER, WHETHER HE WILL CONTINUE
POPE PAUL'S POLICIES REGARDING FAMILY PLANNING AND BIRTH CONTROL--
TWO AREAS CONSIDERED BEYOND THE SCOPE OF OUR CONSULTATIVE
RELATIONSHIP. (WE NOTE HOWEVER PRESS REPORTS THAT PRIOR TO
THE ISSUANCE OF THE ENCYCLICAL, HUMAN VITAE, WHICH HE
STRONGLY SUPPORTED, THE THEN ARCHBISHOP LUCIANI HAD FAVORED
THE USE OF THE PILL.) HOLMES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED WHITE HOUSE.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAPERS, VICE PRESIDENT, POPE, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME16075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0567
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978088/aaaaagjz.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aac4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1783872
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE NEW POPE AND US-VATICAN RELATIONS: BRIEFING PAPER FOR VICE PRESIDENT FROM THE VATICAN OFFICE
TAGS: PGOV, VT, US, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aac4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014